

**Priorities #1 Teen Pregnancy/Drugs, #7 Inadequate Resources for School Health Care, and #12 Lack of Coordination/Duplication of Services for children, youth, and families:**

**Problem: Teen Pregnancy/Drugs**

Rutherford County had a lower rate than the State for teenage pregnancy (24.2% for the State vs. 17.8% for Rutherford County). No national objective has been determined. Overall numbers of teen pregnancies have shown increases over the 1983-1994 time period. The 1996 "Behavior Risk Factor Survey" showed that teen pregnancy was one of the "top five" community problems. The "Stakeholders Survey" also indicated that teen pregnancy and drugs were problems. According to the 1996 "Tennessee Alcohol and Drug High-School Survey" approximately 20.2% of students in the Mid-Cumberland Region bought an illegal drug in the last 12 months. Approximately 40.8% have ever used marijuana.

The Children, Youth, and Families subcommittee will meet with the "American Community Summit of Rutherford County" subcommittee on Health to discuss recommendations and activities for these particular issues. November 6-8 a county-wide "Community Summit", modeled after the National Summit for children, was held in Rutherford County. Several Council members were participants of this event which included approximately 264 participants, of which 58 were youth. The goals of the "Summit" were to promote opportunities and overall health and wellbeing for the youth of the County.

**Problem: Inadequate Resources for School Health Care**

According to the "Rutherford County School Health Survey" done by the School System, the following conclusions were reached: Teachers desire to be relieved of health care responsibilities. Out of all respondents, 32% spent a half-hour to 1 hour per school day dealing with health, behavioral, mental, or emotional problems, while 12.7% spent 1+ hours per school day on these issues. The overwhelming majority of all respondents have a low comfort level for performing health care. The majority of medication is dispensed in school offices by personnel who have the least health care training. Secretaries indicated more than other respondents, that they have had no training in CPR, First Aid, Health, and Inservice.

**Problem: Lack of Coordination/Duplication of services**

Lack of coordination and duplication of services was listed as an important community issue in the 1996 "Stakeholders Survey" and was also identified by the American Community Summit of Rutherford County participants.

This problem has been directly addressed through the Council's participation in the 1997-1998 "Governor's Community Prevention Initiative for Children", (GCPIC) and through the input of the "Summit". After much discussion, it was evident that many resources